

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 6-12, 15 and 16, leaves claims 2-4, 13 and 14 unchanged, cancels claim 5 and adds new claims 17 and 18. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-4 and 6-18.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings particularly Fig. 2 as having a misspelled word. Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Corrections correcting the informality in Fig. 2. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The disclosure stands objected to due to an informality noted by the Examiner in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Particularly, the Examiner objected to a misspelled term on page 9 of the specification. Amendments were made to the specification to correct the informality noted by the Examiner and other minor errors grammatical and editorial in nature discovered upon review.

Claims 1-12, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. As indicated above, claim 5 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 5 is rendered moot. Amendments were made to the remaining claims 1-4, 6-12, 15 and 16 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Cochran (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0230859). As indicated above, claim 5 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect

to claim 5 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claim 5 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claim 5 are taught or suggested by Cochran whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. The cancellation of claim 5 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 7 of the Office Action that claims 13 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Further, Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action that claims 1-4, 15 and 16 would be allowable or amended to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection and to place the claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated above, amendments were made to claim 1-4, 15 and 16 to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection and to place the claims in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 1-4, 15 and 16 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.


As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 17 and 18. New claims 17 and 18 depend from claims 13 and 14 respectively. Therefore, since claims 17 and 18 depend from claims 13 and 14, which are allowable over the prior art of record, new claims 17 and 18 are also allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-4 and 6-18 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-18 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (566.43181X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120